

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, AGAO, FAO

SUBJECT: GAO TEAM SURVEY OF FAO MOROCCO PROJECTS

REF: RABAT 5255

1. REGRET DELAY IN REPLYING TO REFTEL, FOR REASONS APPARENT BELOW.

2. UNDER WASHINGTON URGING BY TELEPHONE TO MOVE AHEAD AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO APPROACHED ASSISTANT TO FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL JACKSON (U.S.) BEFORE JACKSON'S RETURN FROM LEAVE, TO BEGIN TENTATIVE PLANNING OF GAO APPOINTMENTS. QUESTION WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA, WHO CHARGED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE EDWARD WEST (UNITED KINGDOM) WITH HANDLING GAO APPOINTMENTS, AND CHARGED HIM TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN ALL MEETINGS. EVEN IF QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED AFTER JACKSON'S RETURN, SAOUMA MIGHT WELL HAVE DECIDED TO ENTRUST HANDLING TO WEST RATHER THAN JACKSON. WEST HAS BEEN GENEROUS OF HIS TIME AND THOROUGHLY RESPONSIVE TO GAO QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS.

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3. UNDER THIS SITUATION, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DECIDED TO HANDLE MOROCCO VISIT BY INFORMING FAO RATHER THAN FORMALLY REQUESTING APPROVAL, WHICH MIGHT HAVE LED TO DIFFICULTIES. IT WAS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT FAO WOULD REFUSE, BUT FAO MIGHT HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT NUMBER OF PERSONNEL, DURATION OF VISIT, PROCEDURES OF INTERVIEWS, AND COORDINATION WITH UNDP AND MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT. FORMAL REQUEST WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD FOR US TO PRESENT AND FOR FAO TO ACT UPON, SINCE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA HAS BEEN AWAY ATTENDING REGIONAL CONFERENCES, JACKSON HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR HANDLING GAO VISIT, AND WEST PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ACT ON REQUEST HIMSELF. INSTEAD, WE FOLLOWED TACTIC OF INFORMING FAO OF PLANS FOR MOROCCO VISIT IN COURSE OF MEETINGS CHAIRED BY WEST, INCLUDING OCTOBER 6 WITH MEETING CHAIRED BY WEST IN WHICH WORKING LEVEL SPECIALISTS FROM DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY, AND OPERATIONS DIVISIONS BRIEFED BROGAN, YAGLENSKI AND MARTIN OF GAO IN DETAIL ON MOROCCO PROJECTS, AND PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL DOCUMENTATION ON THEM. FROM THIS, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT FAO HEADQUARTERS IS FULLY AWARE OF THE PLANS OF GAO TO STUDY FAO PROJECTS IN MOROCCO, HAS VOICED NO OBJECTION TO THESE PLANS, AND HAS BRIEFED GAO PERSONNEL FOR THE MOROCCO VISIT. WE SUGGEST THIS NOT BE ANNOUNCED OR VOLUNTEERED BUT BE USED IF ANY QUESTION IS RAISED.

4. WE CANNOT PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON PURPOSES OF GAO TEAM BEYOND THAT ALREADY CONTAINED IN DEPARTMENT TELEGRAMS. HERE THEY HAVE CONDUCTED BROAD SURVEY IN SUPPORT OF J.S. SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE STUDY OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. PARTICULAR POINTS OF INTEREST HERE WHICH MAY NOT APPLY IN FIELD ARE BUDGETING PROCESS, AND (BY SEPARATE TEAM) RECRUITMENT OF J.S. PERSONNEL. POINTS OF EMPHASIS HERE WHICH MAY BE PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE IN MOROCCO ARE EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND COORDINATION OF VARIOUS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

5. RE THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, THE TEAM HAS CONCENTRATED ON PROJECT FORMULATION, APPROVAL AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM; EVALUATION; RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. ONE MEMBER OF THE GROUP TO VISIT MOROCCO HAS SAT IN ON MOST OF THE WFP MEETINGS, AND A SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY ON MOROCCO WFP PROJECTS. TEAM HAS COLLECTED PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND THE PROGRESS AND EVALUATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTS ON ALL PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED AS DOCUMENTS FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE/COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. VOLPE

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